



State of California
Respiratory Care Board

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Inquiry: I am inquiring about oxygen bars, which sell flavored oxygen. While in a mall, our respiratory therapist noticed a small booth selling oxygen to waiting consumers. Upon further examination, she noticed the patrons were inhaling flavored oxygen by way of a cannula. How is this legally possible? Additionally, what are the ethical implications of an RT (yes one of the owners of this bar was a licensed RT) providing this type of service which seems questionable at best. I would appreciate understanding the Board's position on such activity of its members.

Response: It is the Board's position that oxygen administration requires a physician's order. It is also clearly stated in the Respiratory Care Practice Act, section 3703 (b) that, "The practice of respiratory care shall be performed under the supervision of a medical director in accordance with the prescription of a physician and surgeon or pursuant to respiratory care protocols as specified in section 3702".

Reference # 2002-C-35